

# **NHANES 1999-2000 Second Public Data Release**

## **Reproductive Health (RHQ)**

### **MEC Interview**

#### **Description of Section**

This section contains questions on women's reproductive health. Information was obtained about menstrual history, pregnancies, oral contraceptive and hormone replacement therapy use, and conditions related to reproduction. The RHQ questions were obtained from previous NHANES questionnaires and other federal surveys.

#### **Topics in the RHQ Section:**

- Menstrual history including age at first menstruation and menstrual cycle irregularity.

- Current pregnancy, pregnancy history.

- Birth weight of children and breast -feeding patterns.

- Oral contraceptive, Depo-Provera use, and use of hormone replacement therapies.

#### **Eligible Sample and Exclusion Criteria**

All female survey participants ages 12 years and older are asked a subset of these questions during the MEC Interview. Data for women 20 years of age and older are included in this file.

#### **Data Processing and Data Editing**

Questionnaire interview responses were recorded by the interviewer on a desktop computer and transferred to the central NHANES database in the same manner as other sections of the MEC Interview. The data were edited for completeness, consistency, and illogical values.

#### **Analytic Notes**

RHQ140 is self-reported pregnancy status. See also Laboratory file variable: URXPREG: urine pregnancy test result, and Demographic file variable: RIDPREG: "adjudicated" variable based on self-report and laboratory test results.

The following variables were modified during the data editing process and are listed as "derived" variables. In most instances, derived variables were created to enhance the analytic utility of responses to one or more questions, or to ensure consistency with NHANES data release standards.

RHD080: "days since last period": For question RHQ080, women were asked to report the date of their last menstrual period. The derived variable was created by subtracting the number of days between this date and the date of the MEC

Interview. Note: extreme values have been retained, but should be carefully examined prior to analysis.

RHD130: “ever been pregnant”: The derived variable includes responses from RHQ040 and RHQ130. If the response to RHQ040 was “1,” that response was included in RHQ130.

RHD170: “# of pregnancies resulting in live births”: Top coding required. If the total number of pregnancies resulting in live births was greater than or equal to 11, the number was recoded to 11+.

RHD230: “# children breastfed at least 1 month.”: Combines questions RHQ220 and RHQ230.

RHD270: “#babies born preterm”: Combines questions RHQ264 and RHQ270.

RHD280: “had a hysterectomy?” Derived variable includes women who were not asked the question due to pregnancy, having had a period in past 1-2 months, or reporting regular periods. For these women RHD280 was coded as “no.”

RHD350: “both fallopian tubes ever cut/tied/removed”: Derived variable includes women who were not asked the question due to pregnancy. For these women RHD280 was coded as “no.”

RHD440: “taking birth control pills now?”: Due to slight skip pattern error for a small number of respondents, responses were imputed from responses to questions RHQ420 and RHQ450.

RHD470s: “brand name of contraceptives”: Derived variable includes additional contraceptive specified.